



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Announces Appointment of Counsel to Defend Immigration Laws

PHOENIX - Governor Jan Brewer today announced that Mr. John Bouma, chairman of the law firm Snell & Wilmer, will represent her in federal lawsuits challenging Arizona's new immigration laws.

The Governor recently signed SB 1070 and HB 2162, which contain numerous provisions relating to immigration enforcement in Arizona. These laws go into effect on July 29, 2010. Five federal lawsuits have been filed challenging the constitutionality of the new laws. The Governor is named as a defendant in four of the five challenges. Although the Attorney General is named as a defendant along with the Governor in one of the suits, he declined to represent the Governor, thus requiring the Governor to obtain outside counsel to defend these laws.

"There are five lawsuits with over forty attorneys representing numerous plaintiffs," said Governor Brewer. "It is important for me to hire excellent and highly experienced counsel with the resources and expertise to defend Arizona's immigration laws. I am confident John Bouma and his team at Snell & Wilmer will successfully defend our immigration laws."

Snell & Wilmer is the largest and one of the oldest law firms in Arizona. Founded in 1938, Snell & Wilmer is a full-service business law firm with more than 400 attorneys practicing in eight offices throughout the western United States and in Mexico, including Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Denver, Colorado; Las Vegas, Nevada; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Los Cabos, Mexico.

Mr. Bouma has previously represented former Governors Symington and Hull, and the Arizona Legislature in constitutional matters. "Mr. Bouma and the law firm of Snell & Wilmer have the resources, staff and expertise to quickly assemble a team of lawyers and support with specific expertise in federal litigation, immigration law and constitutional law," said Governor Brewer.

Under the terms of the agreement with Snell & Wilmer, legal fees and costs will be funded through (1) monies raised from a legal defense fund established under A.R.S. § 41-1105; (2) funds appropriated or allocated for payment of legal fees in accordance with A.R.S. § 35-154; and/or (3) any other funds lawfully available to the Governor, other than the Governor's general operating appropriation. Moreover, in an effort to reduce expenses, Snell & Wilmer has agreed to work with counsel outside the firm who have indicated a willingness to help with legal research and other matters on a pro bono basis.

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